

December Resources and Opportunities

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Upcoming Events

[View All Events on City Calendar](#)

[Lego Builders](#)

Sat, Dec 1
10:30am
BPL Uphams Corner

[Teen Manga/Anime Club](#)

Thurs, Dec 13
2pm

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Do you know a teen who has shown dedication to improving his or her community?



Now, all of that hard work will be rewarded and your community will be able to thank that teen with the Youth Spotlight Award!

The Winter Youth Spotlight Award will be given to a middle or high school student who is a Boston resident and has demonstrated him/herself as a leader. Leadership can take on many forms. If you have anyone in mind, please fill out the nomination form by **January 1, 2013**: www.cityofboston.gov/youthzone.

The award will consist of a part of the Boston Youth Zone newsletter dedicated to the awardee, POSITIVE media recognition, and a prize!

HOPELINE SUMMER 2013 JOB REGISTRATION

SAVE THE DATE AND TELL A FRIEND!



Mark your calendar and do not forget to apply to the HOPELINE to be considered for employment with the Boston Youth Fund for the summer of 2013!

All applicants must be full time residents of Boston and be between the ages of 15 and 17 years old. You must turn 15 on or before Jul 7, 2013 and cannot turn 18 on or before Aug 16, 2013.

BPL Hyde Park

Out-of-school Time:
Robotics

Tues, Dec 11
3pm
BPL Uphams Corner

Out-of-school Time:
Design a Video
Game

Wed, Dec 5
4pm
BPL Honan-Allston

How The Grinch
Stole Christmas

Sat, Dec 22
4pm
BPL Mattapan

Stay Connected

Facebook

Find out about after-school, tutoring, and sports programs this season!

[Boston Youth Zone](#)

Stay updated on all holiday tree lightings in your neighborhood!

[Boston Parks Dept](#)

Twitter

Find out about tutoring programs, scholarship deadlines, free things to do, and more!

Register online 24 hours a day from **Feb 1** at 10am until Mar 3 at 11:59pm or call 617-635-HOPE (4673) on Feb 19, 20 & 21 from 10am-2pm.

Applying with the HOPELINE does NOT guarantee a summer job. Please call the Boston Youth Fund with any questions, 617-635-4202. Also, see a list of sites that offered HOPELINE jobs last summer.

www.bostonyouthfund.org

LIGHTS ON BOSTON

See what Boston has to offer this holiday season!



Participate in the first-ever "Deck the Rooftops" competition where you'll be judged on the overall design and appeal of your residence's lighting and decoration display!

Take advantage of the City's new light extravaganza show, "Boston Blinks," in Faneuil Hall, or take the family ice skating at the Frog Pond. Head to "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at the Wang Theatre, or get your holiday shopping done at Downtown Crossing's Holiday Market.

However you decide to celebrate this season, find a complete list of Boston's holiday events at www.cityofboston.gov/holidays/home.asp.

[@BostonYouthZone](#)

Get notifications on
snow emergencies,
parking bans, &
school cancellations

[@NotifyBoston](#)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Mayor's Holiday Special: Take advantage of the City of Boston's one-stop holiday planning website and enjoy great discounts this holiday season. Thousands of half-price show tickets, store discounts and more.

www.mayorsholidayspecial.com

Winter Activities Brochure 2012-2013: Find out what's going on in Boston this holiday season! Some events include holiday strolls, open studios, tree lightings, and local festivals taking place in different neighborhoods now through Feb.

www.cityofboston.gov/arts

Macy's Enchanted Trolley Tour & Tree Lightings: Santa Claus will once again hit the road to bring Christmas cheer to Boston's neighborhoods with the Macy's Enchanted Trolley Tour and Tree Lightings. www.cityofboston.gov/arts

December 7th:

5:30pm, West Roxbury: Roche Family Center

6:15pm, Readville: Wolcott Square

6:45pm, Mattapan: Mattapan Square

7:15pm, Dorchester: Codman Square

7:45pm, Dorchester: Adams Corner

December 8th:

2:00pm, Jamaica Plain: J.P. Monument

2:45pm, Jamaica Plain: Hyde Square

3:15pm, Roxbury: Mission Hill

3:45pm, Roxbury: 135 Dudley St. (B-2)

4:15pm, South End: Boston Center for the Arts

5:00pm, Brighton: Oak Square

December 9th:

1:00pm, South Boston: West Broadway

1:45pm, Chinatown: Harrison Ave. & Beach St.

2:30pm, North End: Paul Revere Mall

3:15pm, Charlestown: Thompson Square

4:00pm, East Boston: Central Square

Mayor's Holiday at the Strand: Mayor Menino invites you to celebrate Boston's community Gospel. Join Boston's premier Gospel artist showcase as they deck the halls with winter cheer bringing warm summer vibes into the hearth and home this holiday season. Tickets \$5. Dec 1, 4pm. 543 Columbia Rd., Dorchester. 617-635-1403, www.strandboston.com

Toys for Tickets: In keeping with a successful holiday tradition in Boston, any driver issued a non-public safety parking ticket on Boston's streets between Nov 29-Dec 1 can resolve their ticket by providing a non-violent, unwrapped toy of equal or greater value of the ticket fine. 617-635-4410, www.cityofboston.gov/parking

Free Holiday Parking: The City of Boston is offering two hours of free metered parking at all city parking meters on Dec 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. www.cityofboston.gov/parking

Deck the Rooftops: Participate in the City's first-ever "Deck the Rooftops" competition where contestants will be judged on the overall design and appeal of your residence's lighting and decoration display. Categories include: one-or-two-family homes, triple deckers, porch/balcony, multi-family or apartment building. Must be Boston residents. Home ownership not required. First round deadline: Dec 7. www.cityofboston.gov/deckthecity/rooftops

Chanukah in the City: Join other Boston families to celebrate Chanukah! There will be music for you to dance and sing along to and other family-friendly activities. Latkes and other Chanukah snacks will be served. Dec 9, 10-12pm. Free, registration required. Back Bay Events Center, 200 Berkeley St. 617-457-8581, rachelw@cjp.org

Annual Kwanzaa Concert: Enjoy dance troupe OrigiNation's annual concert at Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave. Dec 14, 7pm & Dec 15, 3pm. Tickets \$18 in advance and \$20 at door. 617-541-1875, www.originationinc.org

Roslindale Village Holiday Wander: Take part in holiday festivities and extended shopping hours at more than 25 local shops and restaurants every Thursday evening on Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, and 20 from 5-9pm in Roslindale Square! Enjoy weekly retail events including cooking demos and tastings, craft and game nights, live music and more. 617-327-4066, www.roslindale.net

Bark Place Holiday Celebration: Bark Place South End hosts a holiday celebration for Boston-area dog lovers to raise money for MSPCA-Angell. With the helping hand of Santa, professional pet photographer Jann Tenenbaum will style and photograph each pooch and provide digital prints. Cost \$25. Dec 8, 12-2pm. RSVP recommended: bark@barkplacesouthend.com, <http://barkplacesouthend.com>

Downtown Crossing Holiday Market: Shop at this outdoor holiday village! There will be artisan foods, original jewelry, and works in metal, clay, wood and

fiber handmade by local artisans in Downtown. Mon-Sat, 11am-7pm; Sun, 11am-5pm. www.bostonbid.org

Mayor's International Celebration: Attend the Mayor's International Celebration featuring festive performances, international snacks, and cultural exhibits. Dec 15, 10am-12pm. Franklin Park Golf Club House, Dorchester. 617-635-4505, www.cityofboston.gov/ons/pdfs/international12.pdf

LightWaves Opening: Come out for the opening of Lightwaves and watch the Boston Harbor light up with art by local artists and light by the Boston Cyber Arts! Dec 5, 6-7pm. Boston Harbor Islands Pavilion, Greenway. www.rosekennedygreenway.org

Holiday Toy Drive, Mountain Bike Ride, and Hike!: Join the DCR Park Rangers and volunteers from Blue Hills TrailWatch and NEMBA for the annual holiday toy drive collection. Bring in a new, unwrapped toy and then go on a guided or self-guided mountain bike ride or hike. Gifts for children ages 11-16 are most needed and appreciated. Dec 2. Houghton's Pond, 840 Hillside St, Milton. 617-698-1802, x212

Boston Blinks: Check out the new light and sound extravaganza at Faneuil Hall! Now-Dec 29. Faneuil Hall www.bostonblinks.com

AlertBoston: Sign up to receive email, voice, and text message notifications for snow emergencies, parking bans, and school cancellations. Register at www.cityofboston.gov/alertboston

Prepare for Winter: Check out Boston's guide to important information on winter storms, parking regulations, and household heating. www.cityofboston.gov/snow/winter



FEATURED PROGRAMS

School Age Before and After School Programs: Children ages 5-13 can still enroll in before and after school programs including dance, visual arts, homework help and more in the Dorchester and Roxbury area for little or no cost. For more information on specific times and locations: Kathy, 617-282-6110 x15, www.birdstreet.org

Boy's Glass Art Entrepreneurship Program: Participate in glass art and entrepreneurship classes and learn to make powerpoint presentations, business cards to use when selling your glass art. Earn up to \$1,000. Must be a Boston resident between the ages of 13-16. Bird Street Community Center, Dorchester. Joyce, 617-282-6110 ext. 13, jcrawford@birdstreet.org

Leaders of Tomorrow: Participate in a FREE time management workshop which

will provide tips and insights on how to better manage their time and overcome procrastination. Dec 15, 10am-2pm. Northeastern University, 22 International Village. RSVP, Claude, cpaillant@gmail.com, 617-953-7493.
www.lotbostondc2012.eventbrite.com

Teen Art in the South End: Discover new techniques and create work with professional artists in this FREE weekly art workshop offered to teens ages 12- 15. Exposes teenagers to new art opportunities and expands their knowledge on art fundamentals. Cost: \$25. Fridays, 4-6pm. 36 Rutland St. 617-375-8150,
www.uses.org

Boston Centers for Youth & Families Program Guide: The BCYF Program Guide for 2012-13 is online now! Find programs from fall through spring for all ages including homework help, GED, basketball, volleyball, yoga, chess, computer class, and more. Limited print copies available at your neighborhood BCYF center. 617-635-4920, www.cityofboston.gov/bcyf

Boston Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services: BPS serves nutritious meals at low or no cost to all students. Get the most value for your dollar by completing a Free and Reduced Price meal application: https://apps2.mybps.org/mealapps/lfserver/EFORM_ENG. Universal Free Breakfast is now available at all Boston Public Schools, including 28 schools recently added. Learn more and subscribe to the blog: www.bostonpublicschools.org/meals.

School Preview Time: Come learn about the Boston Public Schools during school preview hours. All BPS schools have special SPT Open House hours, tours, and activities that will be running through Jan 11. Get a schedule at www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolchoiceactivities.

MITES: High school juniors who enjoy math and science, and are thinking about studying engineering or science in college should check out Minority Introduction to Engineering and Science. To apply to this FREE 6-week summer program: <http://mit.edu/mites>. Deadline: Jan 15. mites@mit.edu, 617-253-8052

MIT STEM Program: The STEM Program provides current 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who attend public school in Boston, Cambridge or Lawrence with engaging experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math in a FREE 5-week program! Applications available mid-Dec. Due: Mar, 2013. <http://mit.edu/stem>, stem@mit.edu, 617-253-8052

MIT Science of Baseball Program: The MIT Science of Baseball Program teaches physics, geometry, and statistics to current 7th and 8th grade boys who attend public school in Boston or Cambridge through a curriculum about baseball that is a FREE, 4-week summer session. Applications available mid-Dec. Due: May 2013 <http://mit.edu/msbp>, 617-253-8052

MIT CORE Program: The Confronting Obstacles and Realizing Excellence Program at MIT is a 2-week summer program focused on increasing the quantitative

reasoning skills of rising 8th, 9th, and 10th graders from public high schools in Boston and Cambridge. Applications available mid-Dec. Due: May 2013.

<http://mit.edu/core-program>, 617-253-8052

MIT SEED Academy: The MIT Saturday Engineering Enrichment & Discovery Academy is an academic and career exploration program. Open to promising public high school students looking to develop math and science skills through engineering and technology. Admitted students receive scholarships that cover all costs for up to 7 semesters in the program. 617-253-5063, <http://web.mit.edu/seed>

Generation Next Academy: Teens ages 13-18 are welcome to check out the GNA Teen Center. In this FREE program, you will be able to use and learn about computer labs/academic support, career support, arts, civic engagement & leadership, and more! Mon-Fri, 2-6pm. Dorchester House, 1353 Dorchester Ave. 617-288-2488, www.dotwell.com

Fall & Winter Art Workshops for High School Students: The Art Institute of Boston's Pre-College Program is offering 7-week courses for college credit and non-credit in the visual arts this fall. All levels welcome. Scholarships available. Fall classes through Dec 15. Winter courses Feb 23-Apr 13. Linda Harris, 617-585-6724, www.lesley.edu/aib/curriculum/precollege.html

Oiste?: The Latino Civic Education Initiative is offering various programs for Latinos in the Boston area. They promote the principles and practice of democracy and offer leadership development, civic education, and more. 617-426-6633, www.oiste.net

Cambridge Science Festival Advisory Board: Apply to be part of the teen advisory board that helps develop and implement Festival programming that will target middle/high school students. Requirements: High school students willing to attend monthly meetings. To apply: Peg LeGendre, plegendre@gmail.com, 617-817-8856

Steppingstone Academy: Steppingstone is a free, 14-month college-focused academic program that prepares motivated students for acceptance into and success at top independent and public exam schools. Open to Boston residents in grades 4-5. Family Information Meetings: Dec 5, 12, 15, and 19. Boston Latin Academy. For specific times: 617-423-6300, www.tsf.org

Actors' Shakespeare Project: Calling all youth actors! ASP is seeking youth actors ages 14-18 for its youth theater education program. No previous experience necessary, rehearsals are Mon & Thurs, 6-8pm, and Sat, 10am-1pm. Charlestown Working Theater. Michael, mfw@actorsshakespeareproject.org, 617-776-2200

Boston Public Library Teen Council: Teens can have their voices heard regarding library activities. New members welcome. Fridays, 3pm. BPL Copley

Branch. Jessi, 617-859-2334, www.bpl.org

Hispanic Black Gay Coalition Mentor Program: LGBTQ mentors work to support students in a safe, caring, one-on-one relationship while mentees work on their personal, social, academic, career, and life goals. Mentorship@hbgc-boston.org, www.hbgc-boston.org/node/471

Hyde Square Task Force Enrichment Program: HSTF is accepting applications for their enrichment programs: music clubhouse, community dance classes, and summer rhythms. 617-524-8303, <http://hydesquare.org/programs/youth.html>

Boston Public Schools Arts Initiative: BPS has launched an arts initiative. The new website has a blog and events for students, not just BPS students, interested in writing, music, theater, visual arts, poetry, spoken word, film, or other art forms. www.bpsarts.org

Free Film and Food: Visit Castle Square's New Community Center to watch the documentary "Vincent Who?" The screening includes appetizers and a panel discussion with local professors and community activists. Dec 7, 7-9pm. Annie, 617-482-4605x104, awu@cstoboston.org

Museum of Fine Arts: Visit the MFA for free! If you are under 17 years old, get free admission to the museum weekdays after 3pm, weekends, and Boston public school holidays. 617-267-9300, www.mfa.org/visit

Don't Pass Up These Passes: Boston Public Library cardholders can borrow passes to museums and other local attractions for single-day use! Some places include the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, New England Aquarium, and Boston Children's Museum. www.bpl.org/general/circulation/museum_passes.php



TUTORING PROGRAMS

Extra Help: Extra Help is the weekly television series providing homework help to Boston students. Every Tuesday from 5-9pm, elementary, middle, and high school students can watch and call Extrahelp on Comcast 9, RCN 15 to receive "live" homework help from BPS teachers. Call 617-708-3290 to get your math, reading and language arts questions answered! www.bnntv.org

Homework Help at BPL: Students in grades K-8 can get free after-school homework help in all subject areas at any library branch. Academic support and mentoring are also available. Starts Sep 10, Mon-Thurs, 3:30-5:30pm. Weekend hours at Central Branch only; Sat, 12-4pm; and Sun, 1-5pm. 617-859-2382, www.bpl.org/boost

Online Tutoring: Get free online tutoring in all subjects with your library card! One-on-one tutoring is available for students in grades K-12 in English and

Spanish from 2pm-12am, 7 days a week. www.bpl.org/boost

Boston Teacher's Union Tutors: Students in all grades can receive homework help and tutoring from Boston Public School teachers. Tutoring at Boston Public Library branches from 4-6pm. Days vary by branch. www.bpl.org/boost

BPL Teen Blog: Check out the latest book reviews and information on upcoming events at the library along with job and test prep help: www.bpl.org/teens

826 Boston Tutoring: This non-profit organization offers youth in grades 1-12 one-on-one tutoring and homework help in any subject. Students can register to receive help from a trained tutor. Mon-Thu, 3-6pm and Sat, 1-3pm for students ages 12-18. www.826boston.org/programs

Salesian Boys & Girls Club of East Boston: Offers supervised homework help for youth in all grades, and tutoring in math, biology, and chemistry for students in grades 6-12. FREE to all members. 617-567-6626, www.SalesianClub.com

Youth Tutoring Youth: In this FREE after-school tutoring program, South Boston students in grades 3-6 are able to receive one-on-one help in math and language arts. Program runs every Mon-Thu, 2:45-6pm. Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston. 617-464-8575, www.ccab.org

Boys and Girls Club of Roxbury: The B&G Club offers homework help, test preparation, and tutoring for free to youth ages 6-18. Must be a B&G Club member. 617-427-6050, www.bqcb.org

After-School Program Homework Center: The Allston/Brighton APAC offers its residents ages 5-12 academic assistance in reading, math, geography, and writing. Program runs until 6pm and cost is based on income. 617-782-6068, www.allstonbrightonapac.org



JOBS & VOLUNTEERING

Boston Outreach Youth Ambassadors: Get involved and help create & implement environmental education for youth ages 6-13 and members of your community. Open to high school juniors and seniors ages 16-19. Earn \$8/hr for up to 10 hrs/week. Program runs Jan 15– Mar 30. To apply: <http://mysca.force.com/member>. Donere, 617-334-4345, scaboston@thesca.org

Artists for Humanity: AFH's youth-run micro-enterprise employs city teens to work in a variety of art media learning new skills, making art, and performing creative design services for business clients of AFH. Participants also earn a starting wage of \$8.00 per hour for up to 9 hours per week during the school year. Requirements and applications: www.afhboston.com/highschool

Year Up Paid Internship: Year Up is an intensive one-year training program for young adults ages 18-24 who have graduated high school or have their GED, who provide Fortune 100 companies like Merrill Lynch, American Express and Bank of America with information technology entry-level talent. Applicants must attend an Info Session by Jan 9. Deadline: Jan 9. www.yearup.org

YES Career Exploration Program: The Career Exploration program provides work-readiness classes, workshops, a week apprenticeship, and a paid summer job placement. Youth ages 14 and older can apply. Deadline: Dec 7. 617-267-5877, www.yeskids.org

Green Ambassador: If you are 15-18 years old and from the Greater Boston area, this is a PAID opportunity for you to be involved in an environmental stewardship that would allow you to do public outreach, develop leadership skills, learn science, and explore the Boston Harbor Islands. Apply now: www.thompsonisland.org/youth-programs/youth-jobs-programs. Deadline: Mar 26. Olga, 617-830-5120, ofeingold@thompsonisland.org

BPL Homework Help Mentors: Make a difference by tutoring and mentoring elementary school-aged children. You will help kids with homework, play games, or read books. The program runs through May, 3:30-5:30pm, with a few slots still available at some Boston Public Library locations. Mentors must maintain a 3.0 GPA and will also earn a stipend. Libby, 617-859-2372, www.bpl.org/boost

First Night 2013 Volunteer: On Dec 31, families, friends, and visitors will meet in the heart of Boston to celebrate First Night 2013. Currently seeking First Night volunteers to serve as ushers, face painters, procession marshals, and puppet captains. Age: 16 years and up. Register: www.firstnight.org/volunteer Joyce, 617 542-1399 x26, volunteer@firstnight.org

Boston CAN Share: Combat hunger in Boston by collecting canned food and monetary contributions through Nov 30. 617-635-4507, www.cityofboston.gov/food/canshare

2nd Annual Princess Toy Drive: The Ethnic New England Queens is hosting a toy drive and will be collecting toys for the Home For Little Wanderers. FREE food, music, and activities will be provided. Dec 8, 12-2pm. Mattapan Library. Janelle, janelle@newenglandpageant.com, 617-877-3742

Annual Holiday Coat Drive: Healthworks Community Fitness in Codman Square is giving away gently worn coats for children and adults. Two pick up times are Dec 11, 10:30am-1pm and Dec 12, 5:30-8pm, Healthworks Community Fitness, 450 Washington St., Dorchester. www.mydorchester.org

Kids Who Care -Greater Boston Food Bank: Help the Greater Boston Food Bank inspect, sort, and box food to be distributed to over 600 shelters, soup kitchens, and other hunger relief agencies. For volunteers ages 10+. Must wear closed-toed shoes. 617-427-5200, www.gbfb.org

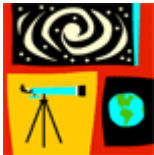
Samariteens: Samariteens is looking for teens interested in volunteering to listen to other teens on the Helpline. The line is dedicated to the prevention of suicide among teens and providing confidential peer support to teens who are struggling with feelings of depression, loneliness, and stress. www.samaritanshope.org/teen-helpline.html

Teens in Print: Ever dreamed of seeing your name in print? Join the staff of Boston's citywide youth newspaper, Teens in Print. This is a volunteer position open to BPS high school students. Meetings are twice a week at The Boston Globe and have FREE food! ric.kahn.jcs@cityofboston.gov

Boston Cares: Make a difference in your community by volunteering! Register with Boston Cares, and you'll become a part of the many service projects that advocate for community enrichment, health & wellness, homelessness/hunger, environment and more! www.bostoncares.org

826 Boston: 826 Boston provides drop-in tutoring, after-school workshops, in-school tutoring, and more. Volunteers are needed for help in various areas. Attend a volunteer orientation on Dec 10, 6:30-8:30pm. 3035 Washington St. Roxbury. 617-442-5400, www.826Boston.org

Boston PIC: If you attend a BPS High School, connect with your Private Industry Council (PIC) Career Specialist who can help you with your resume, job interview skills, and job search. 617-524-5224, www.BostonPIC.org



APPLY NOW

JFK Profiles in Courage Contest: This contest invites high school students from across the nation to write an original essay about an elected official who has demonstrated political courage. The winners will receive awards totaling up to \$13,500. Deadline: Jan 5, www.jfklibrary.org

Brian J. Honan Fellowship: For students in grades 10 and 11 who want to be engaged in their community, develop leadership skills, and learn more about government and politics. Participants attend weekly workshops. Program continues in the summer as an internship. Jan to Jun, West End House. 617-787-4044 x26, agoliti@westendhouse.org

PCA Double-Goal Coach Award: Nominate a coach whose first goal is winning and who's second most important goal is teaching life lessons through sports. Deadline: Dec 31. www.positivecoach.org

Cambridge Science Festival Curiosity Challenge: Youth ages 5-14 are invited to write an essay or a poem, draw or take a picture of your curiosity and tell how it prompted you to explore the world to be entered to be honored at the Curiosity

Awards. Deadline: Feb 8. www.cambridgesciencefestival.org

Cambridge Science Festival: Submit proposals for possible programs and events for the Cambridge Science Festival in Apr! Proposals can represent ideas that celebrate science, technology, engineering, and math. Deadline: Dec 7. www.cambridgesciencefestival.org

Leadership Training Institute: LTI is now accepting applications for high school students. Sessions are held on the MIT campus and will run from Feb 3- May 5, for 12 weeks, 1-4pm. Final applications due: Dec 1. <http://mitlti.org>

Freedom House PUSH: The PUSH program is a year-round program for high school students that promote a college-ready culture through individual counseling, partnerships with institutions such as UMass Boston, a school year program with academic enrichment, and an intensive summer learning institute. www.freedomhouse.com/index.html

Katie's Krops: Youth age 9-16 can win a grant to start a vegetable garden and feed people in need. The winner receives a gift card to a garden center in their area up to \$400, support from Katie's Krops, and a digital camera to document the garden and harvest. Deadline: Feb 12. cory@katieskrops.com, www.katieskrops.com/apply-for-a-grant.html



HEALTH & SPORTS

Seasonal Influenza Shots: Annual outbreaks of the seasonal flu usually occur during the late fall through early spring. Protect yourself by getting the flu shot. The Public Health Commission will be posting locations that offer free vaccinations. Visit www.bphc.org/flu to find a location near you.

A Step Ahead Basketball: A Step Ahead is offering a school vacation clinic, Holiday Hoops, for boys & girls ages 8-14. Dec 26-29, 10-2pm. Mackenzie Center, 1337 Centre St, Newton. www.asahoops.com

B.E.S.T Swim Lessons: Get swim lessons at the Holland Community Center Mon & Fri 7-8:30pm, Mildred Ave Community Center Tues & Thurs 7-8:30pm, or at Madison Park Rec Center Tue & Thurs 6-7:30pm, or Sat, 10-11:30am. Best.orcas@gmail.com, 857-203-0133

Group Swim Lessons: Youth ages 6-15 can apply for group swim lessons at the Kroc Community Center. Various lessons available based on level of experience with swimming. www.boston.salarmykroc.org

Healthworks Youth Fitness: Children can learn yoga, good sportsmanship, teamwork, and more. Ages 5-8 from 5-6pm and ages 9-12 from 6-7pm. Enrollment fee: \$15. 450 Washington St, Codman Sq. 617-825-2800

Tennis for Everyone Saturdays: FREE drop-in tennis clinics, drills, and games for youth ages 5-18. Just wear sneakers. All other equipment is provided. Saturdays 3-5pm, Melnea Cass Recreational Complex. 617-427-8900, info@franklinparktennis.org

Junior Scholar Athlete Program: Register now for an athletic program throughout the school year for youth between the ages of 10-15, Bird St. Community Center, Dorchester. Joyce, 617-282-6110 x13, jcrawford@birdstreet.org



FOR GIRLS ONLY

Young Womens Group: Offering retreats, field trips, discussions about self-esteem, teen pregnancy, and more. Bird St. Community Center, Dorchester. Alicia, 617-282-6110, alinton@birdstreet.org

Bikes Not Bombs' Girls In Action Program: This all-girls program is for girls ages 12-18 to learn, make friends, get active, and earn a bike of their own! No experience in biking or mechanics necessary to apply. Mon-Thurs, 3:30-6:30pm. Cost: \$25-\$50 sliding scale. 617-522-0222, <https://bikesnotbombs.org/girls-in-action>

Goodwill's BNY Mellon Academy for Girls: This program encourages academic achievement, leadership development, civic engagement, and career success in girls ages 10-18 from communities surrounding Goodwill's Roxbury headquarters. Mon-Fri, 2-6pm. 617-541-1212, jrobinson@goodwillmass.org

Girlz with a Z: Girlz with a Z is a program for high school girls to gain science skills and experience through hands-on work with zebrafish. Do hands-on experiments with zebrafish, and learn about their biological development while earning a stipend. Apply by: Dec 7. Saturdays, 10am-1pm, Simmons College. Meghan, mmarjadi@scienceclubforgirls.org, <http://scienceclubforgirls.org/teen-programs-overview>

IGNITE Change Essay Contest: Open to girls 14-19 from Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville who are interested in creating change in their communities and receiving a \$2,500 scholarship, tablet, and other exciting prizes. Apply: www.bostonglow.org



FAMILY FUN

Pitching in for Kids Candy Land Tournament: Come and take part in Hasbro's Candy Land event. Encounter Mamma Ginger, Gloppy, the

Molasses Monster, Princess Lolly, and journey through Gum Drop Mountain in Quincy Market. Dec 8, 10am-12pm. www.pitchingforkids.org/events

Spotlight on Frog Pond: Come celebrate the New Year at the Frog Pond located in the Boston Common on Dec 31, 6pm. The Skating Club of Boston will present a spectacular skating show featuring a dynamic and exciting assortment of local and national ice skaters. www.bostonfrogpond.com

Frog Pond Skating Academy: Frog Pond campus offers classes for kids and adults of every age and ability at the Frog Pond. For a schedule of classes and registration forms, please visit www.skatingacademy.org, or 617-78-SKATE.

MFA December Holiday Vacation Week: Enjoy free, drop-in activities for families to do together in the galleries all week long. Learn to draw, paint, and print like the masters, and create your own art to take home this holiday season. Dec 26-31, 10-4 pm. www.mfa.org

Black Nativity: Based on the Gospel of St. Luke, combined with the poetry of Langston Hughes, this song-play touches a special chord in the hearts of all. Ticket prices and show times vary. Dec 14-22. Blackman Auditorium, Northeastern University. www.blacknativity.org

239th Boston Tea Party Reenactment: Come join in the reenactment of the Boston Tea Party. Hear from John Hancock, Samuel Adams, and John Adams. Tickets: \$15. Dec 16, 4pm. Old South Meeting House. www.osmh.org

Boston Ballet's the Nutcracker: This is a must-see holiday event for you and your whole family! Join Clara on her magical journey through an enchanted winter wonderland to a palace of sugary confections. Now-Dec 30
www.bostonballet.org/tickets-and-performances.html

Girls' LEAP "One Voice": Join Girls Leap in a night of performing arts & poetry to raise awareness about violence against girls and women. Dec 4, 6-8:30pm. 197A Centre St. Dorchester. www.girlsleap.org

Artists for Humanity's Greatest Gifts on Earth: Artists for Humanity will hold a holiday sale and party. You can visit the Studios to meet teen artists and try to create your own art. Admission is FREE and holiday treats will be served. Dec 12, 4-8pm. 100 W 2nd St., South Boston. www.afhboston.org

BPL Book Sale: Check out the Winter Book and Art Sale at the Parker Hill Branch Library. Special sale on children and young adult books! Dec 1, 9am-1:30pm. Lecture Hall, Parker Hill BPL Branch, 1497 Tremont St, Mission Hill. 617-427-3820, ParkerHillLibrary@gmail.com



EARLY CHILDHOOD

Museum of Fine Arts Playdates: Bring your toddler in for a FREE drop-in story time and art making in the galleries. FREE with admission. First and third Monday of every month Dec 3 & 17, 10:30am. Museum of Fine Arts.

www.mfa.org/programs/gallery-activities-and-tours/mfa-playdates-3

BCYF Open Gym: Open Gym is a FREE, drop-in play program for families with children ages 3-8 to get up, out, and moving together. Adults must remain in the gym with their children at all times. No pre-registration required. Saturdays through Dec 1, 10-11:30am. BCYF Recreation Center at Madison Park, Roxbury. 617-373-7615, www.northeastern.edu/healthykids/for-families

Kindergarten Readiness Nights at the Children's Museum: Kindergarten Readiness Nights feature hands-on activities that encourage children to use skills they will need in kindergarten. Admission \$1 per person. First Friday of every month, 6-8:30pm. Boston Children's Museum, 308 Congress St. 617-426-6500, www.bostonkids.org

Jumpstart: This organization brings community volunteers and college students together to work with preschool children by caring, supporting, and providing individual tutoring and mentoring for an entire school year. 617-542-5867, www.jstart.org

Countdown to Kindergarten Play to Learn Playgroups: Boston children ages 1-3 can sign up to attend free parent-child playgroups this fall. All caregivers are welcome to help in building a community of supportive peers, fostering nurturing behaviors, and helping children learn skills for success in school. Rosa, 617-635-9288, www.countdowntokindergarten.org/playtolearn.html

Mama & Me: Toddlers and their parents can enjoy interactive art and creative movement classes. Now accepting registrations for winter classes. 617-477-3432, www.mymamaandme.com



COLLEGE PLANNING

Attention Undocumented Students: If you are an undocumented student and arrived to the US at a young age, you may be eligible to pay in-state tuition rates at many MA public colleges and universities! Learn more at the information session on Dec 12, 6-8pm. English High School, Jamaica Plain. For more information: contact your BPS guidance counselor or Catherine, cchiu@boston.k12.ma.us, 617-635-8030

BPS College Fair: Come out to the BPS District-wide College Fair featuring workshops on Financing College and Post-secondary training, Q & A on attending

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, College 101 in Spanish, and many more. Breakfast and raffle prizes available. Dec 8, 9am-12pm. Madison Park High School, Cardinal Hall, 75 Malcolm Blvd. Roxbury. Kate, 617-635-8030.

Common Application: This college admission application is available online and in print and is accepted at more than 450 colleges! www.commonapp.org

Upward Bound: 9th and 10th graders can now apply to receive SAT and MCAS prep in an after school program, and spend 6 weeks at an intensive residential program at Boston University for FREE. Deadline: Dec 1. Mike, 617-353-3551, www.bu.edu/ub

uASPIRE: Formerly known as ACCESS, uAspire provides free financial aid advising to nearly 40,000 Boston students. From advice on filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to tips on applying for scholarships, you can get answers to all your college affordability questions. 617-778-7195, www.uaspireusa.org

TERi College Access: TERi advisors provide free, one-on-one guidance and resources to make planning and paying for college as simple as possible, with topics on scholarships, choosing prospective schools, and majors. Advisors are fluent in a number of foreign languages. TERi has a site at the Copley BPL Higher Education Center and at several branch libraries and schools. 877-332-4348, www.tericollegeplanning.org

Bottom Line: Bottom Line helps students get in to college, graduate, and go far in life. To be eligible for Bottom Line's FREE one-on-one, year-long college application and financial aid advising services, you must be a Boston resident and have at least a 2.5 GPA. If you are a high school junior in the class of 2014, learn about eligibility requirements and apply at: <http://bottomline.org/for-students/student-application.aspx>.

Number 2: Free SAT courses, extra preparation, and all the help you need to get ready for testing time is now available. Create an account and enroll now at www.number2.com

The Princeton Review: If you're looking for a SAT prep site or looking to enhance your test taking skills, log onto The Princeton Review site. www.princetonreview.com

Next Step, College!: The Boston Public Schools are committed to making sure that every high school graduate has the resources they need to successfully move on to college. Check out the Boston Public Schools guide to college that features links to resources, information about cool events and much more. www.bostonpublicschools.org/college

Boston Scholarship Guide: The Mayor's Youthline is currently in the process of updating all local, college, and national scholarships. Please see our updated

scholarships here: www.cityofboston.gov/youthzone/collegeguide/scholarships.asp.
For a complete, not updated list: www.BostonScholarshipGuide.com

SAT Question of the Day!: If you want to practice for the SAT, quiz yourself with the SAT Question of the Day. Answer questions from all sections of the SAT. Get the questions e-mailed to you and sign in to create a College Board account to track how you do on the questions each day! www.collegeboard.com



YOUTH WORKERS

We Are Boston Gala: Come celebrate Boston's diversity during the 7th annual We Are Boston Gala. This year's event will feature the We Are Boston Community Awards, International Buffet and Dessert, Boston's Children's Choir, and honors for Dr. Gary L. Gottlieb, President and CEO of Partners HealthCare and other outstanding leaders. Dec 4, 5:30-8:30pm. Tickets Required, 1 for \$125 or 10 for \$1,000. Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. www.cityofboston.gov/weareboston

Save the Date Camp HubNob: HubNob will bring together great music, food, supportive community sponsors, partners and friends to enjoy the rich culture of Boston's neighborhoods at the House of Blues. All proceeds generated from this event will support Boston Centers for Youth & Families programming in the areas of Arts, Education, Civic Engagement & Leadership and Sports, Fitness and Recreation that serve more than 90,000 Bostonians yearly. Feb 7. www.hubnobboston.com

Adoptive Families Together (AFT): Join AFT parent-run, confidential groups to share personal concerns around adoptive parenting. AFT offers FREE education, advocacy, training, and support to families, professionals, and communities about the adoption experience. We also welcome adopted individuals, birth parents, foster parents and all those with a connection to adoption. These are ongoing, FREE groups that meet once a month. www.mspcc.org/aft

Math Power: Attend Saturday or Wednesday sessions at the Dudley Branch Library to learn about math games that will help students build math skills. The workshops offer 4 grade levels ranging from kindergarten to grade 8. Register: mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us

Do You Want to Add Information to the Boston Youth Zone Newsletter?: If you would like to add information about your program, please email Youthline@cityofboston.gov by the 23rd of each month. Please include details about the program, cost, location, and who someone should contact for more information.